

I subscribe to XM Radio because it provides a service. I get a much wider selection of music than commercial radio WANTS to provide. XM Radio programming is not dictated by focus groups or advertisers so-called target audiences. I get a choice of what I want to hear. And if I want to listen to CNN or ESPN or other channels with ad content, I can. XM Radio includes such a wide range of options it's a joy to make a selection and then a while later another selection. Commercial radio today is so limited in what there is to choose from. Because huge companies have bought up radio stations, there's a monotone across the land.

My biggest complaint is that commercial radio does not allow for in-depth information. You get a 30 second compressed weather report. You get a 30 second compressed traffic. The information is over before you have a chance to digest it. And because of the short time allowed, it does not encompass a whole lot of information. There's no time for a big-picture report but only what can be fit between ads, talk and (depending on the station) music.

XM Radio's traffic and weather provides information when I need it - almost immediately. The information is done in a continuous loop, weathertrafficweathertraffic. I can tune it in and get the information I need when I need it. Commercial radio gives me partial information after a string of ads. In fact, I often miss the short snippets of traffic news because I stop paying attention to the ad chatter and not pay attention in time for what I wanted. Sadly, commercial radio now squeezes in a minimum of news/traffic/weather between interminable advertising and inane chatter.

XM Radio is an alternative to commercial radio. That is an important point. Commercial radio can compete with XM Radio. The two kinds of radio can duke it out by vying for audiences. However, for commercial radio to ask the FCC to step in is wrong. Let the audience and enterprise determine the market, not governmental intervention.